

DATE: July 14, 2005

SUBJECT: University of Tennessee Memphis Health Science Center, Master of Dental Hygiene (M.D.H.)

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis has an accomplished undergraduate program in Dental Hygiene. The Masters of Dental Hygiene is proposed with the goal of preparing individuals to serve as educators and leaders in the profession. This program will be delivered online. It is associated with a cluster of other online graduate programs at the UTHSC. These programs include the Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Master of Science in Nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2006

Commission staff has reviewed program proposals according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on November 14, 2002. Each standard is referenced below.

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed program is consistent with the role and scope of the mission, “providing a broad array of certificate, academic degree, and graduate medical education programs...including Dentistry, Allied Sciences, and the Graduate Health Sciences.”

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed curriculum has been structured to prepare individuals to serve as dental hygiene educators and leaders in the dental hygiene profession. The new courses identified are essential for the curriculum to be current and comprehensive and are appropriate to the discipline at the graduate level. The curriculum requires completion of 30 semester hours that will focus on classroom, clinical instruction, leadership, research and community health planning.

<u>Curriculum Components</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
Core courses	21
Field Experiences (2)	4
Internship in Dental Education	2
Culminating Project	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	30

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: Admission requires applicants to a graduate of an accredited entry-level dental hygiene program; hold a Bachelor of Science degree; have a minimum 3.0 GPA; the endorsement of at least three former faculty and/or professionals familiar with their background; provide a goal statement; participate in a personal interview; have an active license in good standing. To graduate with the MDH, students

must maintain a 3.0 GPA and successfully complete the 30 required semester hours.

Student Projections	Projected Program Productivity		
	Full-time Enrollment	Part-time	Graduates
Year 1	0	0	0
Year 2	0	5	0
Year 3	0	10	0
Year 4	0	15	5
Year 5	0	16	5

1.1.20D FACULTY: There are eight faculty members currently on staff to implement the proposed program. There is a need for two additional doctorally-prepared faculty members. Other members of the faculty in the department will also teach dental hygiene students.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: No additional library resources are required to implement the proposed program. Students will have full access to all electronic resources of the UT Health Sciences Library. The library has multiple databases and full-text for a wide variety of periodicals.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed program will be housed in the College of Allied Sciences and administered in the Department of Dental Hygiene by the graduate program director.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: The program director will seek affiliation with any of the 215 accredited dental hygiene programs to provide student teaching and clinical opportunities.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: No additional instructional equipment, facilities or renovations are required to implement the proposed program.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: In 1995, a survey was conducted to determine the interest of offering a master's degree in Dental Hygiene. Of the 411 Dental hygiene graduates surveyed, 30 percent expressed interest in the MDH and 28 indicated that they would definitely enroll. The shortage of dental hygiene faculty is consistent with faculty shortages in other health related professionals. According to the results of a survey conducted by the Board of Directors for the American Dental Association, this shortage will continue to increase in the future. The same survey reported that 38 percent of the dental hygiene programs responding had unfilled faculty vacancies due to a lack of qualified applicants. In addition, 68 percent of dental hygiene program directors indicated a need to replace full-time faculty within the next 5 years due to retirement. The American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation requires that dental hygiene faculty members in entry-level programs have current knowledge of the specific subjects they are teaching and background in appropriate educational pedagogy. The proposed program is designed to prepare faculty who can fill positions in entry-level dental hygiene programs.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: There are five entry-level dental hygiene programs in Tennessee, but no other graduate Dental Hygiene education programs to prepare faculty.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: None indicated.

1.1.20L DESEGREGATION: The program will not impede the state's effort to achieve racial diversity.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The proposed program will be evaluated based on departmental assessment and assessment from outside consultants. The degree to which the program is successful in attaining the educational objectives will be assessed on an annual basis with exit surveys and every three years through alumni and employer surveys. The American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation accredits entry level dental hygiene programs, but not graduate programs.

1.1.20N ARTICULATION: N/A

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT (Graduate Programs): Dr. Margaret Walsh, Professor, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences at the University of California School of Dentistry in San Francisco, CA, conducted a site visit on April 18-20 for the purpose of reviewing the proposal to establish the Masters of Dental Hygiene at UTHSC. In conducting this review, Dr. Walsh spoke with the Dean of Allied Health Science, other administrators, dental hygiene faculty and potential students. Based on her assessment during the exit interview and also the written report, Dr. Walsh indicated that the UTHSC and the Department of Dental Hygiene was positioned to support the implementation of the proposed MDH. She was supportive of the curriculum, faculty, facilities and students.

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE: Based on state, regional and nationwide shortages for dental hygiene faculty, the proposed program will have a significant impact. The online delivery will provide more access for practicing dental hygienists who wish to become educators. There are no additional costs associated with the implementation of the proposed program.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following approval. The review will be based on goals established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. These goals include, but are not limited to enrollment and graduation numbers, program costs, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance and other goals set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if the program is found to be deficient, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. Copies of such recommendation will be forwarded to the Education Committees of the General Assembly. The Commission may also choose to extend this period if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.